

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Detailed Office Action of 11/03/2004.

Claim Objections

In Item 1 of the Report, the Examiner objects to Claims 22, 30 and 31 on the basis that the claims do not include a sufficient antecedent for the expression "the camera authentication chip". In response, the Applicant has amended the cited claims to explicitly introduce an appropriate antecedent for the above expression.

Double Patenting

In Item 3, the Examiner objects to claims 1-4, 9-13 and 32-34 in the present application on the basis of a non-statutory double patenting in view of co-pending Application No. 10/729,087. The Examiner further objects to claims 5 and 7 on the basis of a non-statutory double patenting in view of the same application in combination with Purcel (USPN 6,227,643). The Applicant contests the assertions of the Examiner that the above claims are unpatentable over respective claims in the cited documents. However, in the interest of expeditious prosecution of the application, the Applicant files a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c).

Claim Rejections

The Examiner also rejects claims 1-5, 7, 9, 32 and 33 as being unpatentable over Suzuki (US Patent Application Publication N 2003/0043273) in view of Purcell. In response, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the feature of the printing head being a "pagewidth" printhead. This feature is disclosed in the table on page 12 of the specification and, thus, the amendment does not add any new matter. Because of its stationary configuration, this type of printheads has simpler supporting structure and substantially lower power consumption. Accordingly, this is a feature that is directly related to the overall inventive concept of a compact handheld camera and is, therefore, essential for the invention.

In a further amendment, not responsive to the Examiner's comments, claim 1 has been reworded to highlight the interrelationship between the camera components and to improve the overall readability of the claim. Corresponding amendments have also been introduced to the consistory clause of the specification.

Returning to the feature of a pagewidth printhead, the he applicant draws to the Examiner's attention the fact that such a feature is neither disclosed, nor suggested in the cited prior art documents. On the contrary, there is a specific disclosure of scanning printheads (inkjet head 5 in Suzuki and print carriage 22 in Purcell), which in fact teach away from this feature. Thus, a person skilled in the art, apprised with the cited prior art documents, would not be able to derive the present invention as a matter of straightforward routine. As a result, it is submitted that the invention defined in the amended claim 1 is not only novel, but also possesses the requisite inventive step to qualify for patentability. Furthermore, the remaining claims are also novel and inventive, by virtue of their appendance to claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed and a reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

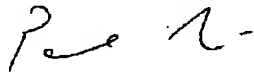
Very respectfully,

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